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## Abstract of the Disclosure

A recombinant or isolated integrin heterodimer comprising a novel subunit  $\alpha 10$  in association with a subunit  $\beta$  is described. The  $\alpha 10$  integrin may be purified from bovine chondrocytes on a collagen-type-II affinity column. The integrin or the subunit  $\alpha 10$  can be used as marker or target of all types of cells, e.g. of chondrocytes, osteoblasts and fibroblasts. The integrin or subunit  $\alpha 10$  thereof can be used as marker or target in different physiological or therapeutic methods. They can also be used as active ingredients in pharmaceutical compositions and vaccines.